JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat 5

1. NAME:

Mr. James Crayton Alexander

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

107 E. Main Street

Pickens, SC 29671

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

864 898-3208

2. Date of Birth:

1949

Place of Birth:

San Diego, California

3. Are you a citizen of SC?

Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Married on April 16, 1971, to Linda Sue Whitlock Alexander. Never divorced; three children.
- 6. Have you served in the military?

I served in the United States Air Force on active duty from 1974-78. I attained the rank of captain and received an honorable discharge. I was in the Air Force Reserve for a short period of time after discharge.

- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) I attended The Citadel in Charleston, SC from 1967 to 1971 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree;
 - (b) I attended the USC Law School from 1971 until graduation in December of 1973. I received a Juris Doctor degree on December 31, 1973.

I have not attended any other college or law school.

8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

I am admitted to practice in SC and the year of admission is 1974. I have taken a bar exam only in SC and passed the exam on the first try.

- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) At The Citadel, I attained the rank of a cadet first lieutenant and was M company executive officer;
 - (b) I was a member of the Summerall Guards in 1970-1971.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed. Conference/CLE Name

 Date(s)
 - (a) Annual Judicial Conference

08/21/00;

(b) Ethics 2000

12/13/00;

(c) 2008 Title Insurance Seminar

09/17/2008;

| (d) | 2008 SC Family Court Bench/Bar | 12/06/2008; |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (e) | Beyond the Elements II: South | 09/25/09; |
| (f) | Annual Professionals Seminar | 11/09/2009; |
| (g) | 2009 SC Family | 12//04/2009; |
| (h) | Social Security Disability | 08/27/2010; |
| (i) | Annual Title Seminar (TIPS) | 11/15/2010; |
| (j) | Annual TIPS Seminar | 11/07/2011; |
| (k) | Everything You Need to Know about Ethics | 01/13/12; |

(1) Exempt beginning in 2012

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture.
 - (a) I taught an off campus business law class while I was in the Air Force in Valdosta, Georgia in approximately 1976 for Troy University for one or two years;
 - (b) I taught an on campus night business law class at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, SC from approximately 2002-04.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each.

 I have not published a book or article.
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) I was admitted to practice before the State Courts of SC in 1974;
 - (b) I was admitted to practice before the Federal District Court in approximately 1980.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.
 - (a) I served in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Air Force from 1974 to 1978. I advised the base commander on military legal issues, advised military personnel on civil issues, and served as a prosecutor for military courts martial. I also served for my final two years of service as an area defense counsel representing airmen who were charged with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice;
 - (b) I joined the Law Office of John Bolt Culbertson in Greenville, SC in 1978 as an associate attorney. Eventually this arrangement was changed to a Partnership consisting of Mr. Culbertson, Harold Christian, Don Moorhead, and myself, practicing as Culbertson, Christian, Moorhead, and Alexander. The partnership was a general practice. I handled plaintiff cases in auto accidents, workers compensation, slip and fall, and other civil litigation. I represented clients in the Family Court for domestic litigation and juvenile litigation. I represented clients in the Court of General Sessions. The Partnership ended in 1983;
 - (c) I formed a partnership with Capers Bouton in 1983 and we practiced as Bouton, Bouton, and Alexander. My practice with this firm was substantially the same. This partnership ended in 1987 when I accepted an offer to join a firm in Pickens, SC;
 - (d) I joined the firm of Coyle and Hughes in Pickens County in 1987. I practiced with Redmond Coyle and Murray Hughes. This firm was involved in real estate, Family

Court litigation, Social Security litigation, some personal injury litigation, and criminal work. Mr. Coyle was then the public defender for Pickens County and I represented indigent defendants in General Sessions Court and juveniles in the Family Court. I handled cases involving domestic litigation in the Family Court and personal injury litigation. I was heavily involved in the Family Court for both domestic and juvenile cases. This firm ended in 1991 when Mr. Hughes left the firm. I then formed a partnership with Mr. Coyle;

- (e) Mr. Coyle and I practiced as Coyle and Alexander until 2002. My areas of practice were substantially the same, with the addition of some real estate work. During this period of time, a full time public defender position was created in Pickens County and Mr. Coyle resigned from this position. I continued to handle private General Sessions cases and juvenile cases in the Family Court;
- I practiced as a sole practitioner from 2002 until my son, Steven L. Alexander, joined the firm in 2003. During that time, I still handled Family court domestic and juvenile cases, personal injury cases, and real estate work. I also began to handle social security cases and became a licensed Title Insurance agent. I also began working as the City Attorney for the city of Liberty, SC;
- (g) After Steven L. Alexander joined the firm, my practice has been substantially the same with the exception of criminal cases and adoptions which Steven handles. Also, I do not generally represent clients in DSS abuse and neglect cases as Steven is the contract attorney for the Guardian program in Pickens County. I do assist Steven occasionally and represent the Guardian program in these cases.

If you are a judge and <u>are not seeking a different type of judgeship</u>, the following questions are inapplicable:

(a) If you are a candidate for Family Court, please provide a brief written description of your experience within each of the following Family Court practice areas: divorce and equitable division of property, child custody, adoption, abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Include information about cases you have handled in each of these practice areas, or if you have not practiced in an area, describe how your background has prepared you to preside over such matters as a Family Court Judge.

I have had extensive experience in handling cases involving divorce and equitable division of property and child custody cases. These areas of Family Court litigation have always been a constant and fairly significant part of my practice. I have also handled a substantial number of Family Court cases involving juveniles when I practiced with Mr. Coyle. I regularly handled abuse and neglect cases either by appointment or being privately retained until my son received a contract to represent the GAL program in Pickens County. Adoptions were a very minor part of my Family Court practice. Steven Alexander now handles adoptions and any juvenile proceedings since he joined the firm as those are areas in which he is interested. As to abuse and neglect cases, my son has a contract with and serves as the attorney for the GAL program in Pickens County and I cannot handle any DSS case in which he is involved. I am also exempt from appointment. However, I still occasionally get involved in abuse and neglect cases if I am already representing clients on unrelated matters who are charged with those allegations. Since I am already involved with the accused parents, my son disqualifies and recuses himself and another lawyer handles that case from start to finish for the Guardian program.

However, I do not seek any abuse and neglect cases because of his involvement. I do sometimes substitute for him as the attorney for the GAL and get involved in abuse and neglect cases. I have an extensive background in the Family Court in all types of litigation and believe that this experience has prepared me to deal with these issues as a Judge.

15. What is your rating, if any, by any legal rating organization, such as, <u>Best Lawyers</u>, <u>Chambers</u>, <u>Legal 500</u>, <u>Martindale-Hubbell</u>, <u>Who's Who Legal</u>, <u>Super Lawyers</u>, <u>etc.</u>? If you are currently a member of the judiciary, list your last available rating, if any.

I am not aware of any rating with any rating organization.

- 16. What was the frequency of your court appearances during the last five years?
 - (a) federal: I have handled one case in Federal District Court and that case did not involve a Court appearance. I have appeared in front of Social Security Judges approximately 20 to 25 times per year;
 - (b) state: The remainder of my work has been in State Court.
- 17. What percentage of your practice involved civil, criminal, domestic, and other matters during the last five years?
 - (a) civil: 45%; (b) criminal: 0%;
 - (c) domestic: 40%;
 - (d) other: 15%.
- 18. What percentage of your practice in trial court during the last five years involved matters that went to a jury, including those that settled prior to trial?
 - (a) jury: 10 %; (b) non-jury: 90%.

Did you most often serve as sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel in these matters? Sole counsel.

19. List five of the most significant litigated matters you have personally handled in either trial or appellate court or before a state or federal agency. Give citations if the cases were reported and describe why these matters were significant.

I have not handled a case that is significant in terms of making law or setting precedents. However, my practice has been about helping people with problems that are significant in their lives and for which I have tried to handle giving that case the same significance.

- 20. List up to five civil appeals you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision, and the citation if the case was reported.
 - OHC Properties, LLC vs. Dewey E. Pajala and Star Pajela, 2007-CP-39-1067. I represented the Pajelas in this case in the Pickens County Court of Common Pleas and filed an appeal on their behalf when the Trial Court granted summary judgment to the respondent. After I filed appellant's Initial Brief and Designation of Matter to be Included in The Record on Appeal, the parties agreed for the Trial Court's Order to be vacated and the case remanded back to the Trial Court for trial. The Court of Appeals by order dated December 23, 2009 remanded the case to the Trial Judge for approval of the agreement. The Trial Judge approved the agreement and the appeal was eventually dismissed;
 - (b) The Cliffs at Keowee Community Association, Inc. vs. Roger L. O'Donald, Lynne O'Donald and Cornerstone National Bank, 2001-CP-39-1003.

Judgment was granted at the trial stage to the plaintiffs and defendants O'Donald whom I represented appealed. The Court Of Appeals upheld the verdict of the trial court in an unpublished opinion;

- (c) Ed Frierson, IV, Virginia S. Frierson, and Allie S. Frierson vs. David L. Watson,
 Patricia R. Watson, Carolina First Bank, 2002-CP-39-1808.

 A motion for summary Judgment was granted in favor of the plaintiffs whom I represented and defendant David Watson appealed. The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict of the trial court in an opinion published as 271 S.C. 60 (S.C.App. 2006)
- 21. List up to five criminal appeals that you have personally handled. Give the case name, the court, the date of decision and the citation if the case was reported. None.
- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? I have not held any judicial office.
- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? I have not held any public office.
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor.

I have not served as a judge.

- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No, I have not previously ran for any elective, judicial, or other public office.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?

I have engaged in the practice of law as my occupation since 1974. I do have real estate interests and property which I will set forth in #28.

- 28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise?
 - (a) I am the sole member of WAL Properties, LLC which owns real estate and rents these properties, including some on a rent to own basis. I handle the purchase and financing of all units and the renting of some units. I have a leasing agent which handles the renting of some units;
 - (b) I am one of three members of SAJ Properties, LLC which has the same business as (a) above. I handle the purchase and financing of all units and am involved somewhat in maintenance and renting of the units. The other two members handle management duties as well;
 - (c) I am one of four members of Storage on Jamison, LLC which owns and rents a house and storage units. I do not have any management responsibilities for this LLC;
 - (d) I am one of two partners in the rental of a house, 119 Sadie Drive, Easley, S.C. I do not have any management responsibilities for this until.
- 29, A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest.

I have been involved in the business enterprises set out above since 2003. I now have 3 business partners and have had other partners in the past, including my father. I have sold real estate that I owned with my father and a person is now paying me a monthly payment on a mortgage. A conflict of interest would occur for any business partner, current

or past, or their families, or for any tenant in those properties, or for a person paying me money on a mortgage, or their families. My business relationship with the officers of the banks which hold a mortgage on any property in which I own an interest would also be a conflict of interest. I would recuse myself and not hear any case involving these individuals or their families.

- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law?

 I have not been so arrested, charged, or held.
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
- 34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?

Yes. I owned a piece of real property in Greenville County which I sold and took back a second mortgage. The buyer did not timely pay the first purchase money mortgage and the bank foreclosed. I was named as a defendant because I held the second mortgage. No relief was granted against me and to my knowledge, the bank completed the foreclosure action and took the property back. This was in approximately 1999.

36. Have you ever been investigated by the Department of Social Services? Has your name ever been enrolled on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect?

I have never been so investigated.

37. If you are in private practice, are you covered by malpractice insurance and, if so, how long have you carried malpractice insurance? If applicable, have you ever been covered by a tail policy?

I am covered by malpractice insurance and have been so throughout my legal career. My deductible is \$5,000.00 and the liability limits are \$500,000.00/\$1,000,000.00.

38. Are you active on or a member of a social media or Internet site or have you, to your knowledge, been featured or depicted on a social media or Internet site, such as, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.?

I do not participate in any of these named activities and to my knowledge have not been so featured or depicted.

- 39. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? I have never been so employed.
- 40. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal?
- 41. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated."

No such action or charges have been made against me.

42. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign."

No such action or charges have been made against me.

43. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek.

I have not spent any sum of money and am not aware that anyone else has spent any money in furtherance of my candidacy.

- 44. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
- 45. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
- 46. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 47. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 48. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No
- 49. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) SC Bar Association;
 - (b) American Bar Association.
- 50. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere. Pickens County Sertoma Club.
- 51. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek

I have been involved with people in many ways. During my legal practice, I have seen a lot of family problems and handled them on a professional level. I am also a member of Pickens First Baptist Church and have served in many capacities there, including being a Sunday School Teacher. However, my most satisfying and eye opening experience has been on the Church Benevolence Committee. On this Committee, I have dealt directly with a part of society in a personal way that a lot of citizens do not see and I have been involved with solving a variety of family issues. This experience has given me a lot of insight into the dynamics of family relationships. I also served on the City of Pickens Recreation Commission while my children were growing up and even after they were out of the program. This Commission provides recreational opportunities to all children in the Pickens area. I served as chairman for several years. Seeing and dealing with the many problems

that arose with parents, children, coaches, fund raising, and City officials, was challenging. But this experience was invaluable to me as I learned to deal with people on a personal level and it helped me assist people in their legal problems on a professional level.

52. References:

- (a) Jeffrey W. Turner
 Pinnacle Bank
 PO Box 51182
 Piedmont, SC 29673
 864-335-4804, 864-421-4883
- (b) James M. Robinson Robinson Law Firm PO Box 738 Easley, S.C. 29641 864-859-7501\
- (c) Brian K. James
 Brian K. James, LLC
 PO Box 93
 Easley, S.C. 29641
 864-859-5918
- (d) Perry Gravely
 The Gravely Law Firm, PA
 PO Box 219
 Pickens, SC 29671
 864-878-1577
- (e) Karen G. Pruitt
 Attorney at Law
 201 Werner St.
 Central, SC 29630
 864-639-1800

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature: James Crayton Alexander

Date: August 2, 2013

ALEXANDER LAW FIRM

107 E. Main Street Post Office Box 618 Pickens, SC 29671

James C. Alexander Steven L. Alexander (864) 898-3208 T (864) 898-3408 F

October 24, 2013

Ms. Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel Judicial Merit Selection Commission 1101 Pendleton Street Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Sent by email: jayniejordan@scsenate.gov

Re: Seat 5 of the Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Currently held by the Honorable Robert N. Jenkins, Sr.

Dear Ms. Shuler:

I have enclosed a document entitled "Modifications to Personal Data Questionnaire". Please add this document to my file. If I need to submit it in any other form, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

The Alexander Law Firm

James C. Alexander

Ba**k** # 317

en**g**losure

cc: Ms. Emma T. Dean

Assistant Chief Counsel House Judiciary Committee

512 Blatt Building Columbia, SC 29201

Email: emmadean@schouse.gov

MODIFICATIONS TO PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

James C. Alexander Candidate for seat #5, Family Court, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

15. I have been reviewed by 5 clients in Martindale-Hubbell and received a favorable review from all 5 clients.

19 (a) Mobley vs. Mobley

This Family Court matter involved custody and visitation. Litigation consisting of a divorce action and a substantial change of circumstances action was pursued over a period of several years. I represented the wife and multiple hearings were held. The case was significant because it involved most aspects of child custody and visitation issues.

b. Childers vs. Childers

The parties were divorced and the mother received custody of two children. Subsequent to the divorce, a substantial change of circumstances action was brought as to custody of the youngest child and I represented the father. Contested hearings were held. Settlement negotiations were very difficult but the case was eventually settled by an agreement. The lawyers had developed an amicable relationship during the case and this helped with reaching a settlement. The significance is that a case has a much better chance of being settled by agreement if the lawyers involved have a good working relationship with each other.

c. First Citizens vs. Chappell

A bank sued my client for a deficiency balance due on a loan in his name for a car that had been purchased for his ex-wife while they were married. The issue was the interpretation of sections of the Uniform Commercial Code as to whether the contract was only a financing agreement (client's position) or whether it was a hybrid document that also included a sales agreement (bank's position). The statute of limitations was either 6 years (bank wins) or 3 years (client wins because the bank waited 5 years to file). This was a case of first impression in South Carolina on the issue presented. The case was tried non-jury in Common Pleas Court and resulted in judgment in favor of my client. The bank chose not to file an appeal.

d) Young vs. Young

The Court had issued a final divorce order that divided marital property. A contempt action was filed against my client in 2009 which involved his actions as to the marital property distribution. My client's defense and substantial monetary claims raised a jurisdictional issue because a division of marital property in a prior final order was involved. The Court found that it was without jurisdiction and could not consider or

determine his claims, found him in willful violation of the prior order, and imposed sanctions. A notice of intent to appeal was filed. Subsequently, an agreement was reached at a settlement conference and the appeal was dismissed. The significance is that he obtained a satisfactory portion of the monetary claims that he had made and the settlement saved him attorney's fees by avoiding the appeal.

- e. <u>Dodgens vs. Piggly Wiggly</u>
- My client slipped and fell in a grocery store and suffered a very severe injury in a county in the lower part of the State and I filed a lawsuit in that county. The case involved trial preparation in two different parts of the State. The parties agreed to mediation even though it was not mandatory at that time. This mediation resulted in a satisfactory settlement to my client.
- 34. Yes: (1) I owned a piece of real property in Greenville County which I sold and took back a second mortgage. The buyer did not timely pay the first purchase money mortgage and the bank foreclosed. I was named as a defendant because I held a second mortgage. No relief was granted against me and to my knowledge, the bank completed the foreclosure action and took the property back. This was in approximately 1999. (2) I represented the wife in two separate divorce actions and I obtained an order requiring the husband to pay attorney fees to me in both cases. In both cases, the parties owned real property and their banks foreclosed on their mortgage and named all persons who had a lien on the real property, which included my claim for attorney fees. I was named as a defendant only for that reason and no relief was requested against me other than determining that the priority of my lien was secondary to the mortgage. These two cases are Lingerfelt and Arnold. I have never been sued because of any debt that I have had or for any other reason.
- 43. I sent a letter of introduction to members of the House and Senate, except for Merit Selection Commission members. The cost was approximately \$30.00 for stationery and envelopes and \$60.00 for postage.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

Date: